

Glossop & District Heritage Trust

Glossop & District Heritage Trust

A company limited by guarantee,
Company Number 01945480
Registered Charity no. 517900

Supported by



c/o 65 High Street West, Glossop, SK13 8AZ

www.glossopheritage.co.uk

enquiries@glossopheritage.co.uk

Patron Edward William Fitzalan Howard, 18th Duke of Norfolk
Chairman Anthony Wright

CHAIR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 SEPTEMBER 2025

This is the Chair's report for the period from 6 September 2024 to 5 September 2025 (our financial year).

At the outset I want to comment on the financial statements. The Income and Expenditure account implies that the Trust made a loss of £2109 in that period. Members will be aware that we receive an annual grant from High Peak Borough Council of £4000. This year the grant wasn't received until after the end of our financial year. In fact, although the accounts imply we had a deficit of £2109, had the grant been received before the end of the financial year we would have had a surplus of £1891.

This is the first time for some years that we have recorded a decent surplus. Partly this has arisen by the careful soliciting of grants for our two flagship activities namely the VE/VJ Day exhibition in the Victoria Hall in May 2025, and the Blue Plaque at Glossop North End in July. High Peak Borough Council created a VE/VJ Day fund available to receive applications from local organisations. We applied to offset the costs of the printing of the posters of the pages from Glossop Chronicle which were made available for attendees to view. A grant was awarded. Then for the Blue Plaque, we asked local councillors to dip into their available donation funds to support the cost of the Blue Plaque. I am delighted to say that the donations awarded by the councillors enabled us to pay for the Blue Plaque without drawing on the Trust's own funds. I therefore record the Trust's thanks to the local councillors, and to High Peak itself for their financial support throughout this year.

Our activities over the past year have been the usual mix of walks, talks, exhibitions and open evenings. Last October Paul Beckmann, Isaac Jackson's great grandson, gave us a very well attended talk about his great grandfather's World War One munitions inventions and production. At that we launched the sales of the prints of Holly Mount, Jackson's residence and factory on Norfolk Street and we were delighted to present Paul with a print. These prints, which are a unique record of Norfolk Street and Holly Mount are available for purchase through our website.

Our next activity was our Annual General Meeting in November when Roger Hargreaves presented updates on the Melandra Roman Fort saga. Because we had our major VE/VJ Day exhibition coming up in May, we decided not to have a Spring Open Evening.

The VE/VJ Day exhibition in the Victoria Hall was very well attended and we were much pleased with it. We were able to re-use the posters of 'Glossop In War Time' which had been produced in 2024 for the Glossop Heritage Weekend, and augmented these with physical exhibits from our collection and we were delighted that members of the public also brought their own exhibits to display. We asked

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David Jones our venerable local Chronicle reporter to select pages from the wartime Chronicles and produced copies of his selection for attendees to read.

Our next major event was the Blue Plaque unveiling at Glossop North End Football Club in July. It was a beautifully hot day and Glossop North End took to it (after some prompting) with vigour and arranged for a Manchester United Veterans Team to play Glossop North End after the unveiling. The unveiling was attended by all the local councillors and members and by Granada TV News. Both the unveiling, and the fact that Glossop North End thrashed the Manchester United Veterans Team made for a very enjoyable and successful day.

Details of all our Blue Plaques and much other information can be found on our website www.glossopheritage.co.uk

Our talks this year have been diverse. Kate Raine presented 'Women of Glossop' at the Victoria Hall Heritage Open Days in September 2024. Tony Wright in the same week gave a talk in All Saints Church. Kate also gave talks to Simmondley School, Dinting Scouts and Glossop Guild (Women of Glossop again). Terry Revell and Kate took the Red Amblers on a walk around Dinting. Terry Revell assisted Whitfield Community Day at the former Ebenezer Church, and took Tameside lip readers round Howard Park. Your Chair gave talks to Glossop U3A and to Galop in Community House itself. I took a member's walk round Whitfield in August (a repeat of the like talk some years ago).

We decided not to attend the Old Glossop Christmas Market and have made a like decision this year. We are grateful however for the opportunity of attending in the past. We will be making a similar public appearance in another venue in Spring so watch this space!

This has been a bumper year for donations and additions to our archives. I have been delighted to meet Mark Winslow, the great grandson of Mary Alice Partington to whom we dedicated a Blue Plaque (on the side of the Partington Theatre) some years ago. Mark came up from Somerset twice. On both occasions the usual Glossop weather applied – hot and sunny. On the first occasion Mike Brown and I met him to take delivery of the casket presented to his great grandmother by Glossop Borough Council on the occasion of her becoming a Freeman of the Borough. Within the casket Mark gave us his great grandmother's MBE medal. Mike and I were able to drive him round Glossop to show him the places connected with his great grandmother – Turnlee Mills (or the remains of them), Redcourt, The Shelter at the top of Fauvel Road, Talbot House, and Partington Maternity Home. On the second occasion Mark came he brought the engraved spade used by his great grandmother in 1919 when she planted a tree in Howard Park celebrating the peace after the First War. With that he also brought his family's archive of photographs and the record of Oswald Partington's time as a Member of Parliament. We are currently in process of scanning these. On the second occasion I was able to take

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Mark into Howard Park looking for the tree although we couldn't find it! Mark points out that these donations have been made by him on behalf of all his family. I am pleased to say that Mark has joined the Trust as a member and I am delighted to welcome him and the other eighteen new members who have joined within the last year. Membership is important to us, the more members we have the more we can show our public support when applying for grants or talking to the Council. Sadly, in the last year we have lost a number of long standing members partly due to the passage of time but partly also by members who have left the district. Our membership currently stands at 110 members.

Other notable donations included a pair of fashion clogs, some pristine underwear from Lux Lux, items from Fitzalan Street Unitarian Church, and archives of Finlay McKinlay, our former apothecary and chemist. These are the more interesting donations but there have been many others for which we are very grateful.

Throughout the year we have monitored planning applications and where appropriate commented (or indeed augmented or corrected) the professionally produced Heritage statements. I am grateful to Trust Director Roger Hargreaves for dealing with that.

We have received around two hundred enquiries throughout the year. These all have to be considered and replied to and I am grateful to Kate Raine for assiduously monitoring these and the website. Material has been sent to schools, authors and researchers. We have helped Derbyshire Makes sessions with materials. We have helped High Peak Borough Council in various ways. We have replied to enquiries from the general public on all sorts of issues including house history, family history and general questions about local history.

We are also in process of producing a new history film of Glossop focussing on the Victoria Hall which hopefully should be premiered next year.

Mike Brown completed his restoration of the Ducal Warrant which formerly hung on the façade of Finlay McKinlay's chemist. Negotiations continue with High Peak in relation to a suitable venue for this to be displayed. We have also assisted High Peak in connection with the history of the Town Hall and again continue negotiations with High Peak in relation to historical displays in the Town Hall and the Market Hall. We are in discussions with High Peak in relation to the Victoria Hall and the possibility of having space in it available to us.

As ever, I express great thanks to my fellow Directors. All have a role to play – be it scanning documents, physically moving stuff, booking halls etc. I thank Lynda Meehan, our former Director, who assist with the analysis of our accounts and I thank my staff at Aspinall Wright – our receptionist Tracey who looks after our membership along with Lynda Meehan, and my own assistant Fiona

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Hayward. As ever we continue to look for new help – should any member wish to know more about the Board then do please come and talk to us. Finally I thank all our members for your support.

Tony Wright
Chair